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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 17 Nov. 1953

SUBJECT The Industrial Enterprise of the Abja Rayon Consumers' Union (Promkombinat abyaskogo raypotrebsoyuza)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Industrial Enterprise of the Abja Rayon Consumers' Union (Promkombinat abyaskovo raypotrebsoyuza) consisted of a sawmill and flour mill, a bakery, a shoemaker's shop, a tailoring section, a sausage plant, a lemonade section, a furniture shop, and a locksmith.

2. Personnel included 1 shoemaker, 3 tailors, 1 locksmith, 3 people in the sausage plant, 12 people in the bakery, 3 in the furniture shop, 8 in the sawmill and flour mill, 1 person in the lemonade section, and about 6 people in the administrative office. The personnel included both men and women, the majority of them older people.

3. The bakers were paid at the rate of five kopeks for every kilo of bread. rate of [REDACTED] 50X1

The shoemaker in the seventh category was paid 2.11 rubles an hour. Tailors were paid two rubles an hour; cabinet makers something more than two rubles an hour. The director of the "kombinat" received 1,000 rubles a month, and office workers received about 450 rubles a month. [REDACTED] 50X1 included the state loan, amounting to the wages for one month of the year, a childless tax of six per cent [REDACTED] and another deduction of six per cent for income tax. 50X1

4. The trade union paid 100% wages in case of illness only if an employee had worked for seven years. The trade union dues were five rubles a month. There was no local trade union organization in the "kombinat". However, the director was a Party member and frequently called all the members together for political lectures on STALIN's life and the accomplishments of the Soviet regime.

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6. Repair work done by the "kombinat" was quite expensive. Generally speaking the price of an article came to about three times the cost of the labor. It frequently cost about as much to have a pair of shoes repaired as a new pair would cost. I attribute this to the 50X1 [redacted] the "kombinat" engaged in speculation. Frequently the employees would pocket money which they received for jobs they did. The director himself probably did the same thing. There was a lot of stealing of bread and sausage and there was no guard to examine the employees as they left.

7. The employees of the "kombinat" were hired by the director. I knew of no police control over hiring, but each employee had to fill out a questionnaire which was probably sent to the police. It included such questions as whether the employee had any connections abroad. Each employee also had to submit an autobiography. If a person wanted to leave his job, it was entirely in the director's hands as to whether he would be permitted to go. If the director refused to release him, there was nothing he could do.

8. The director was a great drunkard and if the employees did not buy him vodka in the evening he would see to it that they were not paid as well as the others. It was not sufficient to buy just 100 g. of vodka; 200 was required. [redacted]

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